



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/579,137	05/30/2000	Teruo Okada	192523US2	1270

22850 7590 03/26/2004

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

PERSINO, RAYMOND B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2682

15

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/579,137

Applicant(s)

OKADA ET AL.

Examiner

Raymond B. Persino

Art Unit

2682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-9,11-13 and 15-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,10 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 May 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by SHENNIB (US 5,197,332 A).

Regarding claim 1, SHENNIB discloses an audio system, comprising: a head attachment audio unit having a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion and an output portion configured to output sound according to the reproduced audio information; and a remote control unit configured to transmit a control signal that controls an operation mode for audio reproduction of the reproduction portion of the head attachment audio unit (column 3 line 21 to column 4 line 13 and column 5 line 19 to column 6 line 10).

Regarding claim 20, SHENNIB discloses a head attachment audio unit, comprising: a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory; an output portion configured to output sound conforming to the reproduced

audio information; a reception portion configured to receive an external control signal to control an audio reproduction operation of the reproduction portion; and a control portion configured to control an operation mode for audio reproduction of the reproduction portion based on the control signal (column 3 line 21 to column 4 line 13 and column 5 line 19 to column 6 line 10).

3. Claims 1 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JONES (US 6,606,506 B1).

Regarding claim 1, JONES discloses an audio system, comprising: a head attachment audio unit having a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion and an output portion configured to output sound according to the reproduced audio information; and a remote control unit configured to transmit a control signal that controls an operation mode for audio reproduction of the reproduction portion of the head attachment audio unit (figure 2 and column 3 line 9 to column 5 line 65).

Regarding claim 20, JONES discloses a head attachment audio unit, comprising: a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory; an output portion configured to output sound conforming to the reproduced audio information; a reception portion configured to receive an external control signal to control an audio reproduction operation of the reproduction portion; and a control portion configured to control an operation mode for audio reproduction of the reproduction portion based on the control signal (figure 2 and column 3 line 9 to column 5 line 65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 4-6, 11, 12 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BUSH (US 6,466,677 B1) in view of VOGEL (GB 2326788 A) and further in view of an examiner's official notice.

Regarding claims 1, 21 and 22, BUSH discloses an audio system, comprising: a head attachment audio unit having a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion and an output portion configured to output sound according to the reproduced audio information (column 2 lines 47-61 and column 3 lines 10-44). However, BUSH does not disclose a remote control unit configured to transmit a control signal that controls an operation mode for audio reproduction of the reproduction portion of the head attachment audio unit. VOGEL discloses a remote control unit configured to transmit a control signal that controls an operation mode for a radio in a head attachment audio unit (pages 2 and 3). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify BUSH to have the controls be remote. The invention of BUSH would benefit from the teaching of VOGEL. Having the controls located on the head attachment audio unit is inconvenient in that it requires that the user either remove the head attachment

Art Unit: 2682

audio unit to control it or memorize the location of the controls on the head attachment audio unit. Providing a remote control overcomes the problem by allowing control of the head attachment audio unit to be effectuated without removing the head attachment audio unit or memorizing the location of the controls on the head attachment audio unit. While VOGEL does teach of transmitting a control signal that controls an operation mode for radio, VOGEL does not explicitly disclose transmitting a control signal that controls an operation mode of a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion. Since BUSH's invention includes a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion, a modification of BUSH to include the remote of VOGEL would require that the control signals control the reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion. Moreover, the examiner takes official notice that it was known at the time of the invention to control operation modes (including start, stop, reverse and fast forward) of a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion. For example, the controls of the first portable mp3 player included "play" and "stop" keys. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify VOGEL's remote control such that it transmits a control signal that controls an operation mode of BUSH's reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion. Controlling the operation mode of a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion increases the usefulness of the device.

Regarding claim 4, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. VOGEL further discloses that the remote control unit is attached with a wrist-belt (pages 5 and 6).

Regarding claim 5, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. VOGEL further discloses that the remote control unit comprises a mechanism of attaching and detaching the remote control unit to and from a watchband (pages 5 and 6).

Regarding claim 6, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. VOGEL further discloses that the remote control unit is in a shape of a ring. When a watchband is in use is in the shape of a ring. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for a remote control unit to be in the shape of a ring.

Regarding claim 11, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. BUSH further discloses that the memory portion is a memory medium freely attachable and detachable to and from the head attachment audio unit body (column 2 lines 51-61).

Regarding claim 12, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. BUSH further discloses that the memory portion is a solid memory disposed to the head attachment audio unit body (column 2 lines 51-61).

Regarding claims 20 and 23, BUSH discloses a head attachment audio unit, comprising: a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory; an output portion configured to output sound conforming to the reproduced

Art Unit: 2682

audio information (column 2 lines 47-61 and column 3 lines 10-44). However, BUSH does not disclose a reception portion configured to receive an external control signal to control an audio reproduction operation of the reproduction portion; and a control portion configured to control an operation mode for audio reproduction of the reproduction portion based on the control signal. VOGEL discloses a remote control unit configured to transmit a control signal that controls an operation mode for a radio in a head attachment audio unit (pages 2 and 3). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify BUSH to have the controls be remote. The invention of BUSH would benefit from the teaching of VOGEL. Having the controls located on the head attachment audio unit is inconvenient in that it requires that the user either remove the head attachment audio unit to control it or memorize the location of the controls on the head attachment audio unit. Providing a remote control overcomes the problem by allowing control of the head attachment audio unit to be effectuated without removing the head attachment audio unit or memorizing the location of the controls on the head attachment audio unit. While VOGEL does teach of transmitting a control signal that controls an operation mode for radio, VOGEL does not explicitly disclose transmitting a control signal that controls an operation mode of a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion. Since BUSH's invention includes a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion, a modification of BUSH to include the remote of VOGEL would require that the control signals control the reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory

Art Unit: 2682

portion. Moreover, the examiner takes official notice that it was known at the time of the invention to control operation modes (including start, stop, reverse and fast forward) of a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion. For example, the controls of the first portable mp3 player included "play" and "stop" keys. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify VOGEL's remote control such that it transmits a control signal that controls an operation mode of BUSH's reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion.

Controlling the operation mode of a reproduction portion configured to reproduce audio information stored in a memory portion increases the usefulness of the device.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BUSH (US 6,466,677 B1) in view of VOGEL (GB 2326788 A) and an examiner's official notice and further in view of an examiner's official notice.

Regarding claim 2, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither BUSH nor VOGEL disclose that the remote control unit transmits the control signal over radio. Nevertheless, the examiner takes official notice that it was known at the time of the invention for a remote control unit to transmit a control signal over radio. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for a remote control unit to transmit a control signal over radio. The use of either IR or radio to transmit a control signal from a remote is routine engineering decision predicated a number of factors including cost, line of sight issues, privacy, and power.

Art Unit: 2682

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BUSH (US 6,466,677 B1) in view of VOGEL (GB 2326788 A) and an examiner's official notice and further in view of ANDERSON (US 5,316,249 A).

Regarding claim 7, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither BUSH nor VOGEL disclose that the remote control unit is attached with an adhesive tape. However, ANDERSON discloses a remote control that is stuck with an adhesive (column 4 lines 50-54). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an adhesive on the remote control so as to stick it to something.

ANDERSON would enhance the teaching of BUSH and VOGEL by allowing the remote to stick to a surface. This will result in the remote being less likely to be misplaced.

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BUSH (US 6,466,677 B1) in view of VOGEL (GB 2326788 A) and an examiner's official notice and further in view of FOSTER (US 5,587,704 A).

Regarding claim 8, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither BUSH nor VOGEL disclose that the remote control unit is a pendant type remote control unit. FOSTER discloses a remote control unit attached with a chain (column 3 lines 59-63). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for a remote control unit to be attached with a chain. The invention of BUSH in view of VOGEL would benefit from the teaching of FOSTER. FOSTER's invention may appear to be directed toward art unrelated to that of BUSH or VOGEL. However, FOSTER's

Art Unit: 2682

teaching is directed toward the remote activation of an audio system. As such the examiner finds the remote control of an audio system whether the audio is outputted to a headphone or loudspeaker to be analogous art. Further, motivation to modify the remote control of BUSH in view of VOGEL to be a pendant type remote control unit is that such a type of remote control allows for one to quickly reach for the remote, as it will be in close proximity. Further, a remote control unit attached with a chain helps reduce the likelihood that the remote control will be misplaced.

9. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BUSH (US 6,466,677 B1) in view of VOGEL (GB 2326788 A) and an examiner's official notice and further in view of HUANG et al (US 6,437,836 A).

Regarding claim 9, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither BUSH nor VOGEL disclose that the remote control unit is one body with a portable information terminal. HUANG et al discloses a remote control unit is one body with a portable information terminal [PDA] (column 3 line 56 to column 4 line 6). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for a remote control unit to be one body with a portable information terminal. Incorporating a portable information terminal with a remote allows for an extended functionality remote control. Thus the invention of BUSH in view of VOGEL would benefit from the teaching of HUANG et al.

10. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BUSH (US 6,466,677 B1) in view of VOGEL (GB 2326788 A) and an examiner's official notice and further in view of an examiner's official notice.

Regarding claim 13, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither BUSH nor VOGEL disclose that the head attachment audio unit further comprises an input terminal configured to input an audio signal. The examiner takes official notice that it was known to have a headphone device with an input terminal configured to input an audio signal. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the head attachment audio unit to further comprise an input terminal configured to input an audio signal. Having a input terminal allows the head attachment audio unit to function as headphones for use with an external audio signal. Thus the invention of BUSH in view of VOGEL would benefit from the modification.

11. 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BUSH (US 6,466,677 B1) in view of VOGEL (GB 2326788 A) and an examiner's official notice and further in view of KITAO et al (US 6,124,804 A).

Regarding claims 15 and 16, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither BUSH nor VOGEL disclose a response portion configured to return a response signal corresponding to the control signal to the remote control unit; and the remote control unit further comprises a reception portion configured to receive the response signal; wherein the remote control unit further comprises a display portion configured to display information visually based on the response signal received by the reception portion. KITAO et al discloses a response portion configured to return a response signal corresponding to the control signal to the remote control unit; and the remote control unit further comprises a

Art Unit: 2682

reception portion configured to receive the response signal; wherein the remote control unit further comprises a display portion configured to display information visually based on the response signal received by the reception portion (column 10 line 8 to column 11 line 6). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a response portion configured to return a response signal corresponding to the control signal to the remote control unit; and the remote control unit further comprises a reception portion configured to receive the response signal; wherein the remote control unit further comprises a display portion configured to display information visually based on the response signal received by the reception portion. Incorporating a display on the remote control to display information based on response signal received by a reception portion allows the user of the remote to become aware of the response information (see KITAO et al, column 11 lines 1-12). Further, the headphone of BUSH includes a display, however the display would not be visible to the user when the headphone is placed on the head of the user. Thus locating the display on the remote would enable the user to see the display while the headphone is in use and get real time indication of the status of the headphone system. Thus motivation to have the display be on the remote is similar to that for having the controls be remote (see the rejection of claim 1). Thus the invention of BUSH in view of VOGEL would benefit from the teaching of KITAO et al.

Regarding claim 17, see the rejection of claim 15 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. VOGEL further discloses that the remote control unit comprises; a control button configured to implement control of reproduction of the audio

Art Unit: 2682

information; a transmitter configured to transmit, when the control button is pushed down (see figure 5). However, VOGEL does not disclose that the remote includes control signal corresponding to the pushed control button and configured to receive the response signal corresponding to the control signal and a display portion configured to display information visually based on the response signal received by the transmitter/receiver. KITAO et al discloses a remote control unit comprising a display portion for visually displaying information based on response signal received by the transmitter/receiver (column 10 line 8 to column 11 line 6). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for a remote control unit to comprise a display portion for visually displaying information based on response signal received by the transmitter/receiver. Incorporating a display on the remote control to display information based on response signal received by a reception portion allows the user of the remote to become aware of the response information (see KITAO et al, column 11 lines 1-12). Further, the headphone of BUSH includes a display, however the display would not be visible to the user when the headphone is placed on the head of the user. Thus locating the display on the remote would enable the user to see the display while the headphone is in use and get real time indication of the status of the headphone system. Thus motivation to have the display be on the remote is similar to that for having the controls be remote (see the rejection of claim 1). Thus the invention of BUSH in view of VOGEL would benefit from the teaching of KITAO et al.

Regarding claim 18, see the rejection of claim 17 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. VOGEL further discloses the transmitter of the remote control unit is disposed on a same face as on which the control button is disposed (pages 7 and 8).

12. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BUSH (US 6,466,677 B1), VOGEL (GB 2326788 A), an examiner's official notice, KITAO et al (US 6,124,804 A) and further in view of an examiner's official notice with evidence provided by HOLLING et al (US 5,378,874 A).

Regarding claim 19, see the rejection of claim 17 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither BUSH, VOGEL nor KITAO et al disclose that the remote control unit comprises an ON/OFF control portion configured to control ON/OFF of a main power source of the remote control unit body according to an input situation from the control button. Nevertheless, the examiner takes official notice that it was known in the art at the time the invention was made to have a remote control unit comprise an ON/OFF control portion configured to control ON/OFF of a main power source of the remote control unit body according to an input situation from the control button. The examiner provides as evidence HOLLING et al which discloses a remote control with an automatic shut-off feature which extends the life of the batteries used to power the remote by turning off unnecessary circuitry, such as the remote receiver and placing the microcomputer in "sleep mode" between transmissions (column 8 lines 51-61). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a remote control unit comprises an ON/OFF

Art Unit: 2682

control portion for controlling ON/OFF of a main power source of the remote control unit body according to an input situation from the control button. Motivation to do so is that it reduces the power drain on the battery thus extending battery life.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 3, 10 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

14. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 3, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. VOGEL discloses that the remote control unit comprises a transmitter configured to transmit the control signal (column 5 line 66 to column 6 line 8). Although, neither SHENNIB, JONES, BUSH nor VOGEL disclose that the transmitter comprising an antenna for transmitting electromagnetic waves; and a shield unit having an opening at a prescribed position thereof and the antenna being inserted therein. Nevertheless the examiner is of the opinion that the transmitter comprising an antenna for transmitting electromagnetic waves is inherent if not obvious. However in the context of the entirety of the subject matter associated with the claim, the examiner has not found prior art teaching it to be inherent or obvious to have a shield unit having an opening at a prescribed position thereof and the antenna being inserted therein.

Art Unit: 2682

Therefore the applicant's invention of claim 3 comprises a unique combination of subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Regarding claim 10, see the rejection of claim 9 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither SHENNIB, JONES, BUSH, VOGEL nor HUANG et al disclose that the audio information is downloaded through the portable information terminal to the memory portion. Further, in the context of the entirety of the subject matter associated with the claim, the examiner has not found prior art teaching it to be inherent or obvious to have audio information being downloaded through the portable information terminal to the memory portion. Therefore the applicant's invention of claim 10 comprises a unique combination of subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Regarding claim 14, see the rejection of claim 1 regarding the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, neither SHENNIB, JONES, BUSH nor VOGEL disclose that the head attachment audio unit comprises a mechanism capable of attaching and detaching the remote control unit. Further, in the context of the entirety of the subject matter associated with the claim, the examiner has not found prior art teaching it to be inherent or obvious to have a head attachment audio unit comprising a mechanism capable of attaching and detaching the remote control unit. Therefore the applicant's invention of claim 14 comprises a unique combination of subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

KRISBERGH et al (US 5,138,649 A)

BENNETT (US 5,461,812 A)

KAMINSKI et al (US 5,896,691 A)

VON FREIBERG (US D395,355 A)

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond B. Persino whose telephone number is (703) 308-7528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian C. Chin can be reached on (703) 308-6739. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2682

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Raymond B. Persino
Examiner
Art Unit 2682

RP

RP



LEE NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER